Application No.: 10/508,811

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Docket No.: 02635/0201896-US0

1. (Currently amended) A belt conveyor for transporting loose tobacco materials, comprising:

a transporting belt, equipped with a vibratory sub-assembly with independent driving means,

a feeding channel being placed over the transporting belt, eharacterized in that wherein

the vibratory sub-assembly of the transporting belt (3) has form of comprises at least two separate vibratory portions (V1, V2, V3), each comprising at least one roller (10a) having eccentric elements (10b) and symmetrically arranged counterweights (10c), and wherein

in case of using eccentric elements (10b) of the same active radii on the rollers (10a) of all the vibratory portions (V1, V2, V3), the distance between the transporting belt (3) and the axes of the rollers (10a) of the starting vibratory portion in which feeding of the loose tobacco material takes place is minimal, and the distance from the transporting belt (3) to the axes of the rollers (10a) of successive vibratory portions (V2, V3) is an increasing function, and wherein

when the axes of the rollers (10a) of all the vibratory portions (V1, V2, V3) are at the same distance from the transporting belt (3) then the active radius of the eccentric elements (10b) of the starting vibratory portion (V1) is the biggest one largest, and the radius decreases for the eccentric elements (10b) of the rollers (10a) of successive vibratory portions (V2, V3), and

wherein the rollers (10a) of each of the vibratory portions (V1, V2, V3) has separate adjusting elements providing is adjustable to provide independent adjustment of magnitude and direction of a vibration amplitude vector, and has also separate adjusting the eccentric elements providing (10b) provide independent adjustment of frequency of the transporting belt vibrations, irrespective of speed of the transporting belt (3).

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2. (Currently amended) A belt conveyor according to claim 1 eharacterized in that wherein each of the vibratory portions (V1, V2, V3) is equipped with separate adjusting elements providing adjustment of distance and inclination of each of the vibratory portions (V1, V2, V3) relatively relative to the transporting belt (3), and the rollers (10a) of each vibratory portion (V1, V2, V3) are connected by pulleys (11) with separate driving arrangements, separate relatively relative to the driving arrangement which drives the transporting belt (3), the driving arrangements of the vibratory portions (V1, V2, V3) are equipped with adjusting elements providing adjustment of rotational speed of motors forming a part of these driving arrangements.

- 3. (Currently amended) A belt conveyor according to claim 1 or 2 characterized in that further comprising an additional belt conveyor (12) comprising including vibratory portions is mounted over the transporting belt (3).
- 4. (Currently amended) A belt conveyor according to claim 1 or 2 characterized in that <u>further comprising a pressure plate comprising 14 having vibratory portions is (14A, 14B)</u> mounted swingingly over the transporting belt (3).
- 5. (Currently amended) A belt conveyor according to claim 1 or 2 characterized in that further comprising a stationary or rotary scraper bucket (13) is mounted over the ending portion of the transporting belt (3), equipped with at least one adjusting elements element (13A) providing adjustment of the height of the scraper bucket (13) relative to the surface of the transporting belt (3) and adjustment of the position of the scraper bucket (13) relative to the surface of the transporting belt (3) along the horizontal axis (X) extending along the direction of the transporting belt (3) movement.